Drug smuggling by an Army Major

946 SHRI NARAYAN KAR. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Times Of India of 1st January, 1989 about the arrest of an Army Major for carrying drugs; and

(b) if so, what action Central Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As Per report received from the Nagaland State Police, on 14-11-1988, 2.350 kg. of white powder, suspected to be heroin, was seized from an Army jeep. Three persons, including an Army Major, have been arrested for appropriate action under the law.

Import of felts and! wires

947. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister , of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to discourage the import of felts and wires and allow concessional rate of import duty on the machines required by the felt and wire industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the concerned Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Evasion of excise duty by Mohan Meakins Limited Ghaziabad (U.P.)

948. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Mohan Meakins Limited, Ghaziabad (U.P;) are evading payment of excise duty and other corporate taxes to the tune of crores of rupees annually;

(b) whether the Enforcement Wing of the Central Excise Department conducted raids at the premises of Mohan Meakins Limited, Ghaziabad and other places in the country during the last three years; and

(c) if so, what are the details of raids conducted and details of incriminating documents, etc. seized and further action, contemplated by Government against Mohan Meakins Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRl AJIT PANJA): (a) No such evasion of Central Excise dutylCorporate tax by Mohan Meakins Limited, Ghaziabad (U.P.) has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Smuggling on borders

949. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggling of narcotics, gold worth crores of rupees and foreign arms in the border areas of Punjab is going on unabated;

(b) whether it is also a fact that killings in Tripura and the infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals in the North-Eastern sector and in West Bengal and Bihar too are posing a threat;

(c) whether the infiltration from Pakistan into Gujarat has caused 90 per